

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2007-375-C - ORDER NO. 2007-807  
NOVEMBER 14, 2007

IN RE: Joint Petition of AT&T Communications of	)	ORDER ON
the Southern States, LLC; BellSouth	)	CONFIDENTIALITY
Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T South	)	
Carolina; South Carolina Telephone	)	
Coalition, United Telephone Company of the	)	
Carolinas d/b/a Embarq, Verizon South, Inc.;	)	
and Windstream South Carolina, Inc. for	)	
Generic and Standing Protection Order	)	
Regarding Information Submitted Pursuant	)	
to Commission Regulations 103-618 and	)	
103-619	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Joint Petition of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, LLC, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T South Carolina, the South Carolina Telephone Coalition, United Telephone Company of the Carolinas d/b/a Embarq, Verizon South, Incorporated, and Windstream South Carolina, Incorporated (collectively, the Joint Petitioners) for a generic and standing protection order regarding information submitted pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-618 and 103-619 (April 27, 2007).

It must be noted that the material listed under the regulations is sent to the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) under the terms of the Regulations. ORS has no objection to the Joint Petition.

As recently amended, Commission Regulation 103-618 requires telephone utilities to provide certain service reports to ORS on a quarterly basis, and Commission Regulation 103-619 requires telephone utilities to provide certain additional information to ORS on a quarterly basis. Most telephone utilities consider the information provided pursuant to these regulations to contain confidential, proprietary, and competitively sensitive information that is not generally published. Thus, when this information was filed with the Commission under the prior regulations, most telephone utilities filed the information along with accompanying requests that the Commission afford confidential treatment to the information. This Commission has traditionally granted these requests for confidential treatment.

According to the Joint Petitioners, continuing this case-by-case approach under the amended regulations would require telephone utilities to individually petition the Commission for confidential treatment each time such information is provided to ORS. This, in turn, would require the Commission to separately docket, decide, and issue an order addressing each individual petition. The Joint Petitioners submit that it would be more efficient and less costly for all involved if the Commission were to enter a generic and standing protective order that affords confidential treatment to information that all telephone utilities provide to ORS pursuant to the two cited regulations.

Accordingly, the Joint Petitioners request that this Commission enter a generic and standing order granting confidential and proprietary treatment of information that all telephone utilities provide to ORS pursuant to Commission Regulations 103-618 and 103-619.

We agree, and we therefore find and order that:

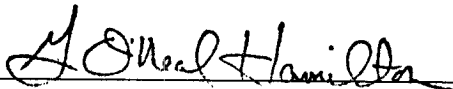
1. Information that any telephone utility provides to ORS pursuant to Commission Regulations 103-618 and/or 103-619 should be afforded confidential and proprietary treatment.

2. When required to provide information to ORS pursuant to Commission Regulations 103-618 and/or 103-619, a telephone utility shall submit: (a) a proprietary, unredacted copy of the information in a sealed envelope with each page marked “Confidential” in red ink, or with other markings that are reasonably calculated to alert custodians of the materials to their confidential or proprietary nature; and (b) a public copy of the information that redacts the specific information that is entitled to confidential and proprietary treatment. The proprietary copy shall not be available for public inspection, and the public copy shall be available for public inspection.

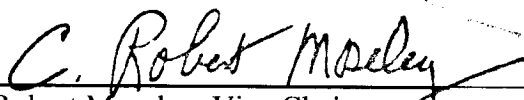
3. Persons or entities may apply to the Commission for a ruling that materials designated as proprietary pursuant to this Order are not entitled to such status and protection from public disclosure. In that event, the telephone utility that designated the materials as proprietary shall be given notice of the application and a reasonable opportunity to respond. The materials that are subject to such an application shall continue to be protected from public disclosure unless the Commission enters an Order to the contrary.

4. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)